

RED TAIL FLUR

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332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING, BALAD AIR BASE, IRAQ

Oct. 21, 2005



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Kluge

Ammo helps put bombs on target

By Senior Airman **Bryan Franks**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Anyone who has attended the Right Start briefing has seen the video of 11 insurgents who were taken out by Hellfire missiles. However, only a few Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron munitions flight witnessed the beginning of the missiles' journey.

"Ammo makes the mission," said 1st Lt. Joshua Jonas, 332nd EMXS munition flight commander. "In any combat mission, the objective of the Air Force is to put bombs on target and to provide the bombs and missiles to take out enemy aircraft to protect our servicemembers and resources. Our Airmen provide those bombs and missiles."

The munitions flight is made up of more than 80 Airmen, and operates 24 hours a day, seven-days-a-week. The flight consists of munitions control, maintenance, line delivery and trailer maintenance shops.

The 332nd EMXS munitions: flight is responsible for

See AMMO, Page 5

1st Lt. Roseline Salazar and Staff Sgt. Philip Krug, both from the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, work on a tail fin assembly prior to assembling a joint direct attack munitions.

Cleaning up



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Tuskegee history



Page 3

Improving the system



Page 4



Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Rex Thomas

Making Balad a bedder place

Chief Master Sgt. William Ferenc, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, removes bed frames from a truck with the assistance of two 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Airmen. The Airmen volunteered to exchange bedding in Air Force transient housing which was furnished with cots.

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The *Red Tail Flyer* will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population.

In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns. The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at 332cc.actionline@blab.centaf.af.mil. Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, discuss plans with Col. Sharon Gann (left), 732nd Detachment 2 commander, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Bosse, Det. 2, and Col. Don Palandech 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander.



Courtesy photo

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<http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/baladarchive/current.pdf>

332nd AEW honors Tuskegee history

Training begins

In March 1941, the Army Air Corps announced the formation of its first-ever black combat unit, the 99th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron. Reflecting contemporary American custom and War Department policy, Tuskegee's black aviators remained segregated in an all-black organization. The unit was to include 47 officers and 429 enlisted men; ground crews were to train at Chanute Army Air Field, Ill., while pilots trained at Tuskegee Institute, a black college founded in Alabama in 1881 by Booker T. Washington.

Primary flight training took place in Tuskegee Institute's Division of Aeronautics, with beginning flying lessons at the school's Moton Field. Advanced training and transition to military aircraft were conducted at nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field, which was officially established July 23, 1941.

Davis leads 99th PS into combat

Led by Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Tuskegee's first group of five men graduated as U.S. Army Air Force fighter pilots March 7, 1942. The 99th PS added personnel and trained for a year before finally being sent to North Africa in the spring of 1943. They were attached to the 33rd Fighter Group at Fordjouna, Tunisia.

Flying P-40 Warhawks, the 99th PS Airmen first saw combat June 2, 1943, as the Allies secured the Italian island of Pantellaria. The unit scored its first aerial victory against the Luftwaffe July 2, when Lt. Charles Hall shot down a Focke Wulf 190 on his eighth mission. The unit's first losses occurred the same day, when Lieutenants Sherman White and James McCullin were killed.

Three months into its combat tour, the 99th PS was accused of lacking discipline and aggressiveness and was nearly dissolved. Davis saved the unit, explaining that, unlike white units, they had no experienced veterans to guide them. Also, they were thrown against the best of the Luftwaffe while being outnumbered and flying obsolete P-40s. In fact, the 99th PS



was smaller than other units and flew more missions per pilot.

One of the Tuskegee Airmen's best days came Jan. 27, 1944, when they shot down nine German fighters and damaged four more.

Escort Excellence

While the 99th PS made its mark in combat, Davis had been sent back to the U.S. to organize the 332nd Fighter Group, which absorbed the 99th PS into an all-black group of four squadrons. They left behind their P-40s and P-39s in favor of the P-47 Thunderbolt, and later the P-51 Mustang. Davis, now a colonel, returned to lead the group. He urged his men to prove themselves in combat as the best reply to racism.

The 332nd FG flew 200 bomber escort missions from June 1944 through the end of the war. The Tuskegee Airmen proved especially valuable in this role: they earned the unique distinction of never having lost a single bomber to enemy fighters.

Tuskegee's Airmen faced the best the Luftwaffe had, including the first jet fighters. On March 24, 1945, as the 332nd FG became the first Italian-based fighter unit to escort B-17s all the way to Berlin and back. They met 25 German Me-262 jets. In the ensuing combat, three German jets were shot down and the 332nd FG lost

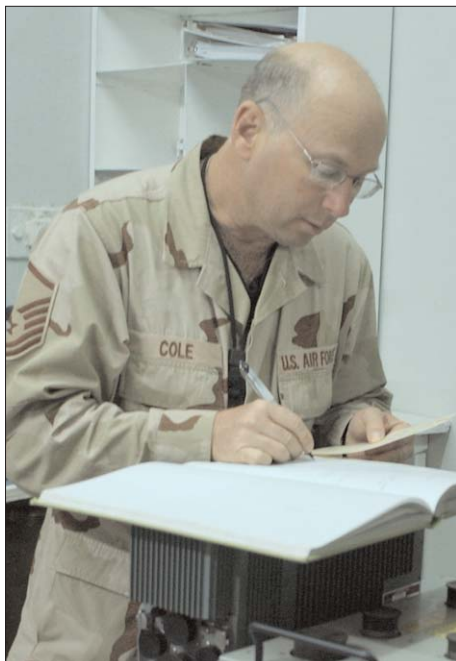
only one P-51.

By the time the war in Europe ended, the 332nd FG had shot down 111 enemy aircraft and destroyed another 150 on the ground, while never losing a friendly bomber to enemy fighters. They also knocked out more than 600 railroad cars, and sank one destroyer and 40 boats and barges. Their losses included approximately 150 pilots killed in combat or in accidents. During the war, 992 Tuskegee pilots had been trained and 450 were sent overseas. By any measure, the Tuskegee experiment was a resounding success.

Legacy of Equality

The Tuskegee Airmen of the 99th PS, 332nd FG and 477th Medium Bombardment Group proved themselves equal to white fliers and support troops. They disproved assumptions that African Americans were unsuited to the rigors of serving in a highly technical combat arm.

The U.S. Air Force, having become a separate service in 1947 and benefiting from the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, became the leader in integrating the military. The Air Force was the first service to erase the color line, thanks largely to the pioneering efforts and courageous legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen who showed their worth during WWII. *(Information courtesy of 332nd AEW historian office.)*



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Master Sgt. Ralph Cole, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, logs an equipment test tag before the piece is tested by the improved avionics intermediate shop.



(Right to left) Master Sgt. Ralph Cole, Senior Master Sgt. Huey Hill and Tech. Sgt. Gerardo Diaz, all from the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, run a computer confidence check on an improved avionic intermediate system prior to testing an F-16 part. The check is conducted every time a part is tested.

Dedication increases F-16 capabilities

Hard work, can do attitude enable 14 Airmen to double F-16 capabilities in 10 days

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Desire and motivation drove 14 Reserve Airmen deployed from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., to turn a dirty, grimy back shop into one of two fully functional improved avionic intermediate shops at Balad Air Base.

The revamped work center allowed the staff to double the improved avionic intermediate repair capabilities here. The IAIS staff utilizes work stations to test, align, troubleshoot and repair mission critical F-16 aircraft line replacement units which include any avionic parts that comes off the aircraft.

"When we first arrived here the alternate IAIS was dirty, dark and it smelled bad," said Senior Master Sgt. Huey Hill, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maint-

enance Squadron avionics team chief. "This place was like a dungeon. The walls were completely black, it was so filthy it took three days to pressure wash them clean."

"The shop was so ill-equipped that to test any equipment here we had to use flashlights," Sergeant Hill said. "This situation was unacceptable to us. So our team spent 10 days turning this office around."

To overhaul the shop, the 14 Airmen cleaned and painted the floors, walls, doors and ceiling of the shop. They removed non-serviceable items that cluttered the area ranging from old toilets to an air purifier. The team undertook the task as a self-help project, only seeking outside help from the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron to fix the lighting.

To add the finishing touches, hand-built shelves were constructed out of salvaged wood and a mural was painted on the office door.

Although the project was a team effort, Maj. David Nicholson, 332nd EMXS commander, believes Sergeant Hill was a significant player in coordinating this renovation.

"She motivated her folks to make this a functional shop," Major Nicholson said. "She saw a situation she felt was unacceptable and took matters into her own hands to correct that problem."

With the new fully operational IAIS the capability to test LRUs, the units can be returned to the supply system to fill mission critical needs for broken aircraft in half the time, Major Nicholson said. "We have been able to double the avionics repair capability for the F-16 operations being preformed."

In addition to increasing F-16 capabilities, the team provides another tool to accomplish the mission that is being performed here.

"If the other work center goes down now, we can continue to support the operations," Sergeant Hill said.

Annual Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

The 2005 to 2006 Combined Federal Campaign has begun and is scheduled to run through Dec. 15.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fundraising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and servicemembers to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

Last year, federal employees and ser-



vicemembers donated a record-setting \$257 million to the campaign. Contributions can be by cash, check or payroll deduction.

On average, one in four federal employees or their dependents will benefit from campaign charities this year, CFC officials said. Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receive their money by filling out a pledge card.

For more information, contact Capt. Jason Bell, Balad campaign officer at 443-6062 or visit www.opm.gov/cc. *(Information courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)*



Photos by Staff Sgt. Shannon Kluge

Senior Airman Jordan Perry, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, installs an initiator fuse during the construction of a joint direct attack munition, Oct. 9.

AMMO, from Page 1

the movement of munitions from the delivery of ammo in theater until they're ready to be used.

"We ensure the right bombs, bullets and missiles get to the right mission and then they're delivered to the bad guys — normally via air mail," he said.

All of this coordination requires a large group effort.

"Teamwork is important in the munitions flight," said Airman 1st Class Andrew Junquet, 332nd EMXS munitions troop. "We work together to make sure the jets get

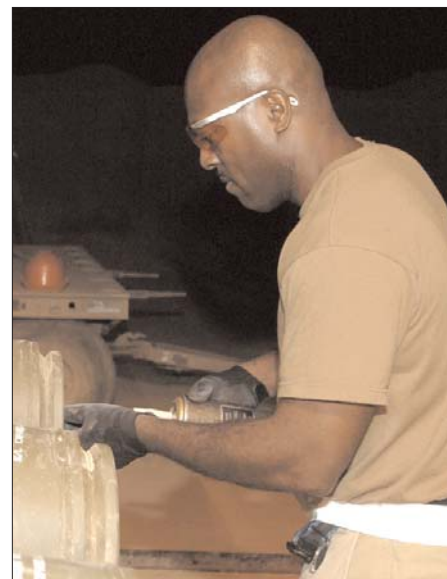
into the air with the ammo it needs."

Achieve this goal the Airmen track several hundred items to ensure the right type and quantity of munitions are available to meet mission requirements.

Dumb bombs, smart bombs missiles, small arms, antipersonnel mines and high explosives are maintained by the flight. However, on-hand stock can be changed based on mission requirements.

At the heart of the flight is munitions control, which coordinates movements of munitions on the flight line and handles emergency responses.

Once the movement has been coordi-



Tech. Sgt. Robert Davis, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, installs an initiator fuse during the construction of a joint direct attack munition.

nated, line delivery takes the munitions on the flight line and between storage areas with loaders, Lieutenant Jonas said. Trailer maintenance performs maintenance on all support equipment that transport munitions on the flight line.

Many new improvements have been made for the munitions flight.

"Our Airmen and supervision are currently housed in our new facility," Lieutenant Jonas said. "We have projects in the works to add a new road and pavement in the MSA which is invaluable for the rainy season and for movement of munitions to and from the flight line."

Maintaining cooling units prevents system problems

Staying cool during the summer and warm during the winter is not something that magically happens, it takes individual responsibility to ensure cooling and heating units are properly maintained.

Air conditioning units should be cleaned weekly, said Staff Sgt. Scott Mendoza, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician. "It is the users responsibility to take care of their units."

In addition to being used for cooling, the units at Balad are also used as heaters. If these units are not properly maintained year round it may affect the functioning of the heat pump.

To properly clean the units use the following procedures:

Step 1

Turn the systems power off with the remote control.

Step 2

Open the intake grill.



Step 3

Remove the filter, to do this lift up

the air filter's handle, then disconnect the two lower tabs and pull out.



Step 4

Remove dust by rinsing the filter with water, then shake the filter off or allow it to air dry before replacing it.



Step 5

Close the unit and turn it on using the remote control.

For more information, contact Sergeant Mendoza at 443-7286.

Holiday mailing deadlines fast approaching

Individuals who are interested in mailing holiday greetings to their family and friends at home should heed the following deadlines:

Nov. 12: Parcel post

Nov. 26: Space available mail

Dec. 3: Parcel airlift mail

Dec. 5: Priority mail and first-class: letters and cards

For more information about mailing deadlines in the area of responsibility, contact Capt. Steven Pena at 443-7548.

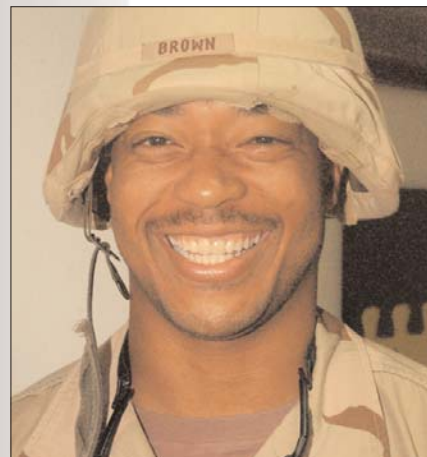


BALAD AIR BASE UNIFORM TIPS

When wearing the kevlar helmet the chin strap will be firmly attached at all times. Floppy hats are not authorized for wear under the kevlar helmet. Guidelines on kevlar helmet wear can be found in 332 AEW 36-2903 [Dress and Personal Appearance Standards] section four.



Right



Wrong

Hope

Red Tail Airmen help ensure Iraq's future

By Col. Jon Roop

332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander

"Hope ... that's why you're here; your selfless service brings hope to the Iraqi people!"

That was my response to a Security Force Defender when he asked me why he was at Balad doing the same thing he did at his home station. His heartfelt query reminded me of why the Tuskegee Red Tail Wing was reactivated in Iraq ... to instill hope. It's true, every day a Tuskegee Airmen serves in Iraq is another stitch in the tapestry that will make Iraq free.

During our rotation we'll experience an incredible time in world history. It's as if we were living in Philadelphia after the Revolutionary War. Just as men like John Adams and Patrick Henry furiously debated the words for a durable, all inclusive constitution after conquering an oppressive monarch, so are Iraq's new founding fathers.

It's staggering to think you and I generated combat airpower that ensured Iraqis voted freely on a constitutional referendum. Together we'll also ensure Saddam

“ If you find yourself wondering about your purpose, just remember that you enabled thousands of Iraqis to vote and define themselves as a democratic nation. ”

- Col. Jon Roop
332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander

Hussein is justly prosecuted and a fledgling government is fairly crafted.

It is natural to indulge in the illusions of hope, but there comes a time when there is no longer room for hope ... that is when we must fight. That is what Coalition and Iraqi forces have done — we've entered the fight. Our efforts are driving a wedge between the Iraqi people and the insurgent forces. We discredited the insurgents and enhanced the confidence in Iraqi security forces. We built faith and trust into the political process; in short, we built hope amidst adversity.

The other day I learned that trained Iraqis are conducting more security

patrols around Balad. That is great news; we made this happen ... we made a difference. Red Tail Airmen created an environment for Iraqi forces to be trained by coalition forces.

These patrols remind the locals that our intent is peacekeeping, which in turn gives them more control over the old regime's brutal thugs who still loiter about the streets. It's almost that simple, the more secure they feel, the easier it is to keep alive the flame of hope for a prosperous future.

I encourage each Red Tail Airmen to take a moment and reflect on the results of your service to America and Iraq. If you find yourself wondering about your purpose, just remember that you enabled thousands of Iraqis to vote and define themselves as a democratic nation.

I tell to anyone who will listen: "Our Red Tails made a difference!" I encourage each of you to do the same. Right now, send a note to someone back home telling of your place in history. Let your friends and family know that the legend of the Tuskegee Airmen continues, and that you are bringing hope to a new generation of Iraqis.

News Notes

- ◆ **Airmen who are injured and seek medical treatment must complete an Air Combat Command Form 164. This form must be given to a supervisor and then forwarded to the safety office. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Cyde Lathon, at 443-6111.**
- ◆ **Congratulations to Senior Airman Anthony Williams, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, winner of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Mug Logo Contest.**

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 6:30 p.m. Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN
Sundays and Wednesdays
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

Sundays
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

7:30 a.m. Hospital, 8 a.m. Provider Chapel
Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays through Fridays

7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626"

Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Islamic Prayer

Fridays

1:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

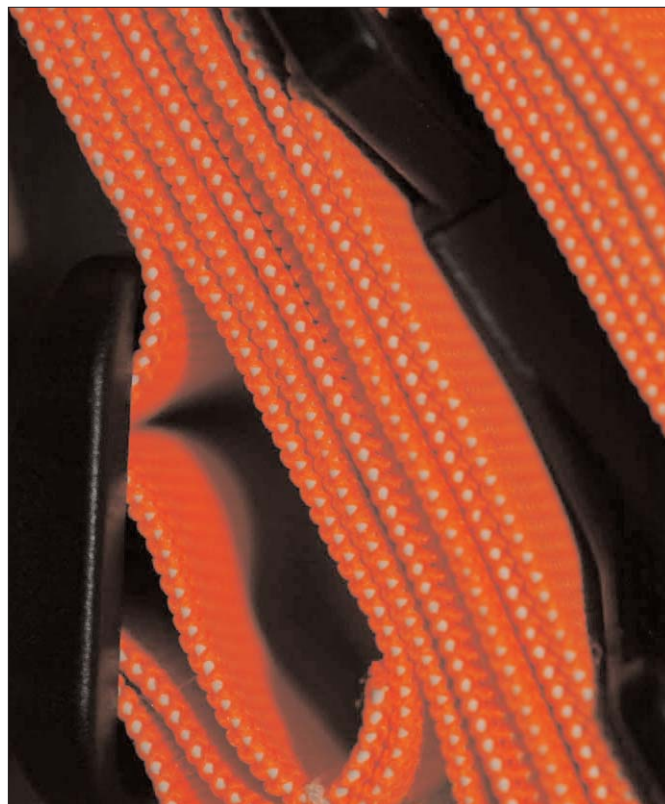


Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Silent Heroes

Tech. Sgt. Robert Schenk, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group NCOIC of logistics planning, is this week's "Silent Hero." Sergeant Schenk was chosen because he was instrumental in helping 12 personnel from the group out of the area of responsibility and home on emergency leave within 24 hours of notification.

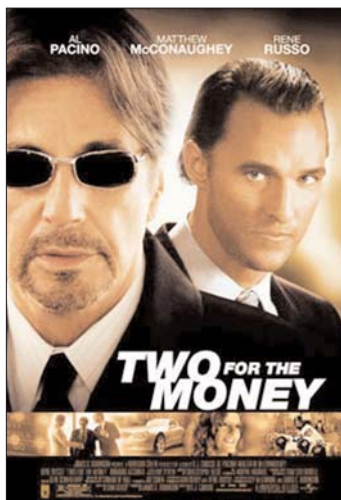
Know what this is?



If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Last week's photo of the brillo side of a sponge was first identified by Master Sgt. Richard Butturini, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today

3 p.m. - Valiant
6 p.m. - Two for the Money
9 p.m. - Two for the Money

Saturday, Oct. 22

3 p.m. - Supercross
6 p.m. - Four Brothers
9 p.m. - Two for the Money

Sunday, Oct. 23

3 p.m. - The Great Raid
6 p.m. - Two for the Money
9 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard

Monday, Oct. 24

3 p.m. - Two for the Money

6 p.m. - Valiant

9 p.m. - Four Brothers

Tuesday, Oct. 25

3 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard
6 p.m. - Two for the Money
9 p.m. - Supercross

Wednesday, Oct. 26

3 p.m. - Valiant
6 p.m. - Four Brothers
9 p.m. - Two for the Money

Thursday, Oct. 25

3 p.m. - The Great Raid
6 p.m. - Dukes of Hazzard
9 p.m. - Two for the Money

